

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 REYKJA 00664 111629Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00
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R 111549Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
TORUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 7295
INFO COMICEDEFOR
CINCLANT
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 0664

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, IC, UR
SUBJECT: COVERUP CHARGED IN CASE OF ALLEGED SOVIET COMMUNICATIONS
MONITORING

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. LOCAL NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT LARGE QUANTITY OF ELECTRONIC
EQUIPMENT FOUND SOMETIME AGO IN LAKE NEAR REYKJAVIK IS OF
RUSSIAN ORIGIN AND CAPABLE OF INTERCEPTING NATO COMMUNI-
CATIONS. PAPER CHARGES THAT GOI, THOUGH AWARE OF FACTS
FROM START, WAS DERELICT IN ITS HANDLING OF MATTER.

2. REPORT CONCERNS SO-CALLED KLEIFARVATN EQUIPMENT, SOME
30 PIECES OF COMMUNICATIONS GEAR DISCOVERED BY DIVERS
3-1/2 YEARS AGO ON BOTTOM OF LAKE OF THAT NAME LOCATED
BETWEEN REYKJAVIK AND KEFLAVIK. MATTER HAS BEEN OBJECT OF
CONSIDERABLE CURIOSITY EVERSINCE, THOUGH NO OFFICIAL EX-
PLANATION OF IT HAS EVER BEEN OFFERED. INDEPENDENCE PARTY-
AFFILIATED DAILY VISIR, IN MAY 9 ISSUE, PUBLISHED
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PAGE 02 REYKJA 00664 111629Z

EXCERPS FROM REPORT PREPARED BY POST AND TELEGRAPH
ADMINISTRATION ENGINEERS WHO EXAMINED EQUIPMENT SHORTLY
AFTER IT WAS FOUND. EQUIPMENT INCLUDED, ACCORDING TO
REPORT, SEVERAL RECEIVERS APPARENTLY OF SOVIETORIGIN
(THOUGH MUCH OF LETTERING HAD BEEN FILED OFF) WHOSE
FREQUENCY WAS SAME AS THAT USED BY NATO FOR RADIO-
TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN EUROPE AND US. IT

IS CLEAR, STUDY ADDED, THAT EQUIPMENT ENTERED ICELAND WITHOUT AUTHORIZATION OF POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICIALS.

3. VISIR ACCOUNT SAYS THAT ABOVE REPORT WAS SENT TO MINISTRY OF JUSTICE, HEADED BY PROGRESSIVE PARTY (PP) CHAIRMAN OLAFUR JOHANNESSON, AND FROM THERE TO FOREIGN MINISTRY (UNDER EINAR AGUSTSSON, ALSO A PP). BOTH MINISTRIES, PAPER SAYS, AGREED THAT NOTHING FURTHER NEED BE DONE IN MATTER. JUSTICE MINISTER OFFICIAL TOLD PAPER YESTERDAY THAT DECISION HAD BEEN BASED ON FACT THAT THERE WAS NO MEANS OF DETERMINING WHO HAD OWNED OR DISPOSED OF EQUIPMENT.

4. IN STRONGLY WORDED EDITORIAL MAY 10 VISIR ATTRIBUTED GOVERNMENT'S FAILURE TO PURSUE INVESTIGATION TO POLITICAL DECISION ON PART OF JUSTICE AND FOREIGN MINISTRIES. PAPER SAID MONITORING FOR WHICH EQUIPMENT WAS APPARENTLY USED HAS IMPLICATIONS FOR SECURITY OF ICELAND AND NATO. IT DEMANDED THAT GOI STATE WHETHER IT WAS INDIFFERENT TO SOVIET ESPIONAGE ACTIVITIES HERE AND, IF NOT, TO EXPLAIN WHY KLEIFARVATN INVESTIGATION WAS HALTED. END UNCLASSIFIED.

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5. COMMENT: IT HAS LONG BEEN OPEN SECRET THAT KLEIFARVATN MATERIAL WAS OF RUSSIAN MAKE AND THAT IT WAS PROBABLY OF TYPE USED FOR COMMUNICATION INTERCEPTS. HOWEVER, THIS IS FIRST OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF EQUIPMENT'S ORIGIN AND CAPACITY. SIMILARLY, THOUGH FONMIN

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PAGE 03 REYKJA 00664 111629Z

AGUSTSSON HAS BEEN PERIODICALLY CHARGED WITH COVERING UP STORY, IT HAD NEVER BEEN CONFIRMED THAT GOI HAD FORMALLY DECIDED TO HALT INVESTIGATION. WHETHER CRITICS OF HANDLING OF CASE NOW WILL GET ANY SATISFACTION IS ANOTHER MATTER. VISIR WAS LEADING VOICE EARLIER THIS YEAR IN DEMANDING CLOSER CHECK ON SOVIET ACTIVITIES HERE IN WAKE OF RECENT NORWEGIAN SPY SCANDAL. HOWEVER, DUE TO WHAT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN DETERMINATION OF PROGRESSIVE PARTY NOT TO ANTAGONIZE USSR, LITTLE CAME OF THIS. LIKEWISE, DESPITE VISIR'S NEW ALLEGATIONS OF "COVER-UP", IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT AGUSTSSON OR JOHANNESSON WILL NOW FIND THEMSELVES ON ANY HOOK THAT THEY CAN'T SLIP OFF, GIVEN THEIR PAST RECORD OF POLITICAL ADROITNESS. FACT THAT ALTHING HAS NOW ADJOINED PRECLUDES ANY FOLLOW-UP FROM THAT QUARTER. END CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, MONITORING, ALLIANCE, ALLEGATIONS, MILITARY COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 11-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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